

Border Eagle

Vol. 53, No. 13

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

April 1, 2005

15 days
until...

Air
Amistad
Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

Newslines

Daylight savings time begins

Sunday marks the beginning of daylight savings time. Base members are reminded to turn their clock one hour ahead.

Golf course closed

Due to the wing commander's annual golf tournament, the golf course will be closed Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The tournament ice breaker is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. today at the Leaning Pine Golf Course.

For more information, call 298-5451.

Customer service closure

The finance customer service desk will be closed at 2:30 p.m. April 8 for commander's call.

For an emergency during the closure, call the command post at 298-5167.

Special duty briefing set

A special duty assignment team will brief Laughlin members on becoming military training instructors, recruiters and other special duties in Anderson Hall Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon.

To obtain an application, call Master Sgt. Jeffrey Cunningham at 298-5456.

Deployment stats

Deployed: 18
Returning in 30 days: 0
Deploying in 30 days: 6

Mission status

Mission capable rate
(As of Tuesday)

T-1, 86.6% T-38A, 73.3%
T-6, 91.5% T-38C, 75.8%



Photo by Jose Mendoza

Laughlin's newest pilot...

Marco Gaytan Jr. the latest "pilot for a day" to visit Laughlin, gets a firsthand look inside a T-6 Texan II. The 85th Flying Training Squadron hosted Gaytan and his family March 25 as part of the Pilot for a Day program. See story on Page 10.

Laughlin wins AETC innkeeper award

Laughlin Manor claimed the Air Education and Training Command Services Inns of Excellence Award recently as the top small lodging facility in the command, its second consecutive year.

"We are an award-winning lodging facility because the Manor staff gives their 100 percent best everyday to our guests," said Kathy Harting, 47th Services Division Lodging manager.

Laughlin and Lackland Air Force Base, the large category winner, will represent AETC at the 2005 Air Force Innkeeper Award competition. Headquarters AETC Services will allocate \$20,000 in nonappropriated funds to Laughlin's lodging operation to help prepare for the Air Force level competitions.

The Air Force Innkeeper Award Evaluation Team arrives here in June. Laughlin Manor will be vying for its second consecutive Air Force title.

Laughlin Manor is the 2004 Air Force Innkeeper winner, making them the top small base lodging in the Air Force.

More than 36,000 guests visit Laughlin annually with 99 percent of guests leaving very satisfied with their stay.

In the AETC competition, Laughlin was judged on innovative programs above and beyond normal activity programming, exceptional customer service satisfaction examples, facility improvements, recognition programs, training programs and other accomplishments.

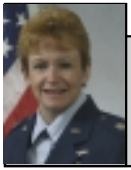
One significant improvement will be the completion of phase one of the Military Housing-Temporary Lodging Facility (TLF) conversion. The \$562,000 project will replace the current one-bedroom units with two- and three-bedroom units. The units will also have full size living rooms, kitchens and dining rooms.

Also, a high-tech surveillance system added safety and security to the visitor's quarters.

"The staff is what makes Laughlin Manor the best" Mrs. Harting said. "We will be Air Force best again this year, bar none."

(Wayne Amann, 37th Services Division, and Kathy Harting, Laughlin Manor manager, contributed to this article)

Military medical plans benefit members, family



Commander's Corner

By Lt. Col. Robin Squellati
47th Medical Operations
Squadron commander

I recently read an article titled, "Whose Truth is True." The title inspired me to let you know how valuable your military medical benefit is to you and your family.

Some may believe that all medical plans are equal. A few of the most apparent advantages of our medical benefit are financial, access to care, preventive care and disease management. It surprises me that anyone would separate from the military without considering that millions of people are without health insurance.

Tricare is the largest HMO in the world. Active-duty members and their families pay zero to enroll, compared to several hundred dollars for some other HMOs. Also active-duty members and their families pay zero per visit, compared to a standard co-payment. Pharmacy costs are also much less with Tricare. The

cost for a hospitalization is less with Tricare. You can compare these rate differences by visiting <http://www.tricare.osd.mil>.

Access to care is one of our most important goals. Enrollment is 1,500 beneficiaries to one primary care provider, which helps us meet our acute, routine and wellness access.

The 47th Medical Group has usually exceeded the access goals, with 97 to 99 percent of appointments meeting the goal. If the majority of the 1,500 patients are healthy, then they require fewer appointments and access will be easier for all. The medical group is your partner in health care.

As a partner it is important that you take part in your care. Some ways you can participate are by ensuring you have a healthy lifestyle, eat a nutritious diet, quit smoking, exercise regularly, get 6 to 8 hours of sleep per night and maintain a healthy weight.

Prevention visits are also important. Physical health assessments, cervical cancer screening, childhood visits and immunizations are examples of prevention visits. The medical group has been in the top three for Air Education and Training Command in each of these areas. Prevention

exams occasionally identify high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes or other conditions. The 47th MDG was recently recognized at the annual Tricare convention for the excellent care of diabetics.

Also, I would like to thank you for your patience during our transition to the electronic record. We have had to decrease the numbers of appointments while our staff learns the new system. In May, we will be back to full schedules. If you have trouble calling in for an appointment, consider using Tricare online (<https://www.tricareonline.com>). You can make your appointment at your convenience, just like making airline reservations.

Also, active-duty members may call from 7 to 7:30 a.m. This time is dedicated to active-duty members needing a same day appointment in Family Practice.

Be sure that if you are given a referral, that you stop by the FP front desk to get a referral pamphlet so you can track your referral authorization.

We would like to help you remain as healthy as possible.

Staying healthy requires constant effort, but the results are well worth the time and energy.

Work continues to eradicate assaults at academy

By Michael Dominguez
Assistant Secretary of the Air
Force for manpower and reserve
affairs

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense published cadet survey results from the nation's three service academies March 18 that show cadets' and midshipmen's perceptions of a variety of character-related issues, including the sexual assault climate, at their respective institutions.

Some may see good news in the Air Force statistics, but even though we are encouraged the trend is moving in the right direction, we are not satisfied. The fact that we have any incidents of sexual assault at our

academy — even though these stats show our rates are down — is not "good" news. We still have work to do to make this situation better, and what we do and learn can benefit the rest of this country as other institutions of higher education face the same challenges.

To put the service academy results in context, I invite you to examine the results of a U.S. Department of Justice-sanctioned research report titled "The Sexual Victimization of College Women" by B. Fisher, F. Cullen, and M. Turner, dated December 2000.

The Fisher Study (named for its principal author) is widely considered the most methodologically sound investigation on sexual assault at college cam-

puses. It concluded that 1 in 5, perhaps as many as 1 in 4 college-age women will experience some form of rape or attempted rape during their college career. The study also states that, nationally, more than 15 percent of college women are sexually victimized on an annual basis; that is, sexual contact is completed with force, threat of force or some other type of coercion.

We will not be satisfied until sexual assault and the behaviors that foster it are eradicated from our military institutions. This is especially significant, because we, along with the rest of the nation, properly hold the military services to a higher standard.

See 'Assaults,' page 3

Border Eagle

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Deadlines

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262.

Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.

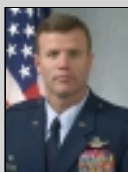
Submissions can be e-mailed to: olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil or sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil.

Advertising

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Actionline

Col. Tod Wolters
47th Flying Training
Wing commander



Call 298-5351 or email
actionline@laughlin.af.mil

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By including your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also useful if more information is needed to pursue your inquiry. We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved. Please keep e-mails brief.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions. Below are telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a

AAFES	298-3176
Chapel	298-5111
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Contracting	298-5439
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
Finance	298-5204
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

"Through trust and teamwork, train expeditionary airpower experts to fight and win America's wars."

— 47th Flying
Training Wing
mission statement

Don't be afraid to show your scars, seek help from others

By Brig. Gen. Mark T. Matthews
48th Fighter Wing commander

ROYAL AIR FORCE
LAKENHEATH, England — I can't remember the blood. There must have been a lot of it, but I can't see it. Funny, how the brain, especially that of a small child, blocks memories too horrific to comprehend.

It was the early summer of 1961, in the late afternoon. The air was thick with the smell of fresh hewn spring onions as my father mowed my grandmother's yard. My cousin and I were playing on her front porch; one of those silly games small children engage in. We would take turns, one in the porch swing the other pushing from behind. As the swing swung back the one in the swing would spit at the other. If "tagged" with the spittle, the victim would jump from the porch, run around to and up the steps, and then swap places and roles with the other.

We were having great fun; so much so that I didn't notice my father approaching the porch. The device he pushed was not the standard mower you'd envision today but what my father referred to as a tractor. It had a 3.5 HP Briggs & Stratton engine perched above two big knobby tires; tires slightly smaller than what you'd see on an ATV today. On the front was a drive mechanism to which you could attach a variety of devices such as a small tiller and a mowing device. This latter implement consisted of a saw-toothed blade that cycled back

and forth between a fixed sieve creating a scissoring action to cut the grass.

As I jumped I saw the approaching mower, but too late. My father's head was down while he concentrated on pushing the mower close to the porch wall. I landed on my hands and knees, with both arms going underneath the scything blade. Reflexively, I pulled my arms back, miraculously avoiding injury to the right, but too late for the left.

I can remember pain, but I can't feel it. I can remember fear, without being able to see what so horrified me. In one smooth motion, my father killed the engine, ripping free its starter cord as he bent to grab me. Somehow, he held my flailing body as he wrapped the cord above the massive wound that had almost severed my left hand. Taking his bandana he tied another knot below the gash and ran, cradling me, to our neighboring house. By this time my screams had summoned my mother and the family sedan where my father nestled me between them and sped away. I felt cold and listless from the massive blood loss, symptoms I now recognize as shock. We raced to the hospital in Raleigh, twelve miles away.

Arriving in the emergency room the nurse had to produce a scalpel to remove my tourniquets. They summoned a surgeon, a grandfatherly man who knew too well the nature of

my wounds from countless surgeries in Normandy field hospitals. I watched enthralled in my morphine stupor as this surgeon pieced my arm back together. He would later proclaim me one of his masterpieces. Nevertheless, the wound left a prominent scar.

We all have scars. Some are visible, like the one on my arm. We wear them as badges of honor: a key tackle, an errant slap shot, a close encounter with death; however, most are hidden, buried in the recesses of our minds out of pride or shame or fear or for reasons we can't even fathom—buried at great cost. My vivid scar would resurrect a painful memory and prompt my father's recurring question: "Are you OK?" My answer was always "Of course." This simple exchange was cathartic. My reassurance assuaged his guilt, his own scar. For myself, while the pain I saw in his eyes saddened me, it also reassured me: my father cared.

What scars do you hide? What do you deny yourself by doing so? What are you afraid of? Ask yourself these questions and if you don't like where the answers leave you, then do something about it.

Your "wingman," your chaplain, your spouse are just some of the folks who are willing to accept you, scars and all. You don't have to wear them as a badge of honor; but neither do you have to hide them. Scars don't go away. But with time and attention, they recede, and you learn to live with them. They become a part of you exposed to the light of the world.

Assaults, from page 2

We are confident we have the right leadership team in place at the Air Force Academy. Led by Lt. Gen. John Rosa, they are making significant strides toward achieving our goals:

- Making commanders at all levels responsible for actively overseeing the effectiveness of our programs.
- Eliminating sexual assault and any environmental factors that

foster it.

- Providing an environment where victims have the confidence to report assaults.
- Ensuring appropriate investigations and prosecutions are conducted in a timely manner, and foremost,
- Providing for victims' health and well-being.

As a leading national institution, America's armed forces embody the best of our nation's ideals.

Above all, we will continue

to develop leaders of character ready to serve our nation in the profession of arms. As such, we accept that it is our responsibility to take a leadership role in finding solutions to this troubling national issue. We will not rest until we can look every American in the eye and tell them that their sons and daughters are safe at our academy and are receiving the very best education and training we can provide them as they aspire to be the leaders we need for the 21st century.

XLers give back to local school through Partners in Education

Story by Airman 1st Class
Olufemi A. Owolabi
Editor

More than 80 Laughlin members were in Del Rio to assist in the first 2005 Partners in Education volunteer project at Del Rio High School March 19.

The task was to repaint approximately 100 yards and several rows of bleachers at the school stadium.

Partners in Education is a Laughlin Top Three program designed to broaden communication between the base and schools in Del Rio by improving the quality of life for students in more than 13 schools.

The program also provides support for schools in areas such as computer connectivity and troubleshooting, library and janitorial work depending on the schools' needs.

"It's great to see over 80 XLers come out from all across the base (commanders, officers, Top 3, Rising 6, and dependents) working together on the same goal and purpose," said

Senior Master Sgt. Richard Conerly, PIE chairperson and the military personnel flight superintendent here. "The camaraderie is great from start to finish and it feels good to be able to make a difference."

The turn-out of volunteers was noticeable during the project as it was completed ahead of schedule.

Volunteers attributed success of the event to the overwhelming response and positive attitude of volunteers who came out to work on the school project.

According to Senior Airman Sheryl Miller, 47th Mission Support Squadron, who said she volunteered because she enjoys helping the community and meeting new people, "People were very motivated and enthusiastic about being here. This definitely makes the project go a lot faster and smoother."

"It also allows the volunteers to do a better job without having to rush because of time," said Airman Miller.

Furthermore, she said the program builds cohesion between Laughlin



Staff Sgt. Freddie Fong, Maj. Patricia Rodriguez-Rey, 47th Mission Support Group, and other volunteers for Partners in Education paint bleachers at Del Rio High School. Due to the turn out, the project was completed ahead of schedule.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi

Staff Sgt. Jason Riter, 47th Communications Squadron, puts a final coat of paint on a row of the bleachers during the Partners in Education project at Del Rio High School March 19. Master Sgt. Frank Schycker (Background), also of the 47th CS, points to a row of bleachers that needs to be painted. Sergeants Riter and Schycker are two of 85 volunteers who participated in the PIE project to repaint about 100 yards of bleachers at the school.

members by working together as a team and helping the community. "This project gives Airmen the opportunity to help improve the condition of the schools and instills pride for a job well done. It saves the schools money that can be put towards other things for the students."

She urges Airmen not to relent in their efforts to participate when it comes to community events and involvement. "We all benefit by knowing that in some way, we have contributed to the well-being of others and by doing so, it reflects credit upon the

Air Force and how the outside (community members) views us as military members."

"I enjoyed it so much that I will keep volunteering because it is a great way to help the kids," she said.

All labor and materials were provided to the school at no cost. Also, the program provided free food, donated by Pizza Hut, McDonald's, Wendy's, Subway, KFC, and HEB, to volunteers when the project ended.

For information on how to volunteer for future PIE projects, contact Sergeant Conerly at 298-5856.

Federal law assists troops dealing with creditors

By Gerry Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Federal law prohibits mortgage lenders from immediately foreclosing on homes owned by servicemembers deployed overseas on military duty, a senior legal officer said here.

All servicemembers, including those deployed, are protected under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, signed by President Bush on Dec. 19, 2003, said Army Col. Christopher Garcia, director of legal policy for the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

"The (Act) includes a provision that protects against default judgment," Colonel Garcia said. "In any civil action, such as a lawsuit or a foreclosure, in which the defendant does not make an appearance, the court must require the plaintiff bringing the suit to file an affidavit saying whether or not

the other party in the lawsuit is a servicemember."

If the party being sued for foreclosure or some other debt action is a servicemember, he said, the Act "requires the judge to do certain things to protect the servicemember's rights."

For example, the courts are required to stay the court proceedings for a minimum of 90 days until the servicemember can be present to assert a defense, he said. Most often, such court cases are delayed until the servicemember has completed his or her overseas deployment.

Colonel Garcia said he had no specific information regarding recent news reports saying some deployed servicemembers have had their homes foreclosed on or had other assets seized in contradiction to the law.

Business-community compliance with the Act "generally has been very good," Colonel Garcia said. Yet, he acknowledged, there have been "isolated cases of noncompliance." This usually occurs "when

a lender, or landlord, or other person dealing with a servicemember is unaware of the law," he said.

After lenders and other creditors become aware of the law, they usually comply with it, Colonel Garcia said.

Activated Reserve and Guard servicemembers and those on active duty and their family members can contact their local military legal assistance officers to assist them in enforcing their rights, Colonel Garcia said.

A legal assistance attorney can "draft a letter or make a phone call," he said. If the creditor refuses to comply with the Act, either the servicemember can sue privately, or the Department of Justice can bring an enforcement action in federal court.

The Act is an update to the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act of 1940, which was established to provide protections to deployed troops who have difficulty meeting their personal financial and legal obligations because of their military service.

Nine recently selected for promotion to senior must now re-compete

By Tech. Sgt. David Jablonski
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Personnel officials are correcting circumstances that recently led to nine master sergeants being selected for promotion to senior master sergeant in the incorrect Control Air Force Specialty Code during the 05E8 cycle.

The problem began when 46 Airmen who were attending the First Sergeant Academy reached the E-8 promotion eligibility cut-off date of Sept. 30.

One Air Force instruction stated those people should be considered members of the first sergeant career field once they departed their former duty station to attend training. Another instruction stated they are not really first sergeants until they graduate from the course.

Air Force Instruction 36-2101, "Classification of Military Personnel," states the CAFSC effective date for re-training through a formal school, including special duty, is equal to one of the following: the date departed current duty station; the date departed on temporary duty to accomplish required training, either en-route to the new duty station or when returning to the present duty station; or the date assigned duty, if there is not a permanent change of station or assignment.

Conversely, AFI 36-2113, "First Sergeant," states the CAFSC of first sergeant is awarded upon graduation of the First Sergeant Academy. AFI 36-2101 should have taken precedence, officials said.

Three of those Airmen had their Air Force Specialty Codes correctly changed and competed as first sergeants. The other 43 mistakenly competed under their old AFSC.

"Due to conflicting AFIs, there were individuals who should have been promoted and were not, while others should have been considered in a different category," said Maj. Gen. Tony Przybyslawski, Air Force Personnel Center commander.

All affected members have been notified of the error. All 43 members who were considered in the incorrect AFSC will be considered for promotion during the next supplemental board in May. The supplemental board results will be released in June.

Individuals in other AFSCs who would have been in line for promotions will have their status corrected and will be promoted, as they should have been, officials said.

"This situation underscores the integrity of the enlisted promotion process," said Lt. Gen. Roger Brady, Air Force deputy chief of staff for personnel. "We discovered a discrepancy in our instructions, and we fixed it."

Local group to host murder mystery dinner

By 2nd Lt. Tom Murphy
47th Operations Group standards and evaluation liaison officer

So here you are, a weekend in town with the same options: a movie at the mall, a ride over the border, or maybe dinner or a night on the town with family or friends.

For a change of pace, consider the Del Rio Host Lions Club murder mystery dinner theater at 7 p.m., April 9, at the Ramada Inn, 2101 Veterans Blvd.

The motif is the turn-of-the-century New Orleans French Quarter. Picture a real life version of the game "Clue."

While you enjoy dinner and music by Fantasia, a local four-piece jazz band, performers sitting among you will offer clues to "who done it." Your job is to identify the culprit.

"We want to give the local community a Saturday evening al-

ternative," said Brenda Mireles, engine manager in the 47th Maintenance Directorate. "We want to prove you can get quality entertainment without having to drive 150 miles."

Attendees are encouraged to dress in turn-of-the-century attire. Wendy Van Winkle of Tantrum Advertising said, "Think Titanic!" If you don't want to wear a costume, semi-formal attire is required. Mrs. Mireles said, semi-formal for this event is coat and tie for men and comparable attire for ladies.

Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and dinner includes a bacon-wrapped filet steak, baked potato, salad and dessert.

Tickets cost \$40 per person and can be purchased on base from Jane Pratt, 298-6315, or Brenda Mireles, 298-4457. Tickets also can be purchased in town at Tantrum Advertising, 775-5536, Del Tex RV, The Whitehead Museum, and Gold Fashions in the Plaza Del Sol Mall.

'Faces of fallen' exhibit opens at Arlington

By Jim Garamone
American Forces
Press Service

The faces remind us of what we have lost.

"Faces of the Fallen," an exhibition that opened March 22 at the Women in Military Service to America Memorial here, features more than 1,300 portraits of servicemen and women who have died in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"To say this is a moving exhibit would be a serious understatement," said Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, the keynote speaker at the opening. "Words always fall short when we try to describe our respect, sympathy and profound gratitude to those who have sacrificed everything in the service to our nation.

"The lesson here today is the artists have succeeded where our words have failed," continued the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Hundreds of family members came to see portraits of their loved one. The portraits were done from photos, and more than 200 artists participated in this "labor of love," said Annette Polan, the co-chair and one of the artists for the project.

The various artists used different media and styles to portray the fallen. Some artists worked from photos taken in Iraq or Afghanistan, and depicted a young man or woman peering out of the portrait wearing full battle rattle.

Other portraits are taken from the enlistment photos the services take, and you see young men and women trying to look older and tougher than they feel. The men and women in the portraits sport new military haircuts, military-issue glasses and big ears that longer hair covered.

Still other portraits came from graduation photos or wedding photos or family re-

union photos. All the portraits say something about those who have died.

"You have captured the spirit of those who have given their lives and really the spirit of all the brave men and women who serve," Myers said. "A spirit that has lived in so many generations of Americans, a spirit of belief that freedom and justice for themselves, for their fellow Americans and for people around the world are more important than personal safety or comfort."

The families crowded into the education hall of the memorial. Many saw the portraits of their loved one for the first time. "They really caught John's goofy grin," said one Mom.

Another family group hugged each other in front of the portrait of their son. Tears flowed. "It's still too raw for us," said the father. One family took a picture of the portrait, so they could bring it back to grandma. "She couldn't face this," said the father. "But she would want to know he is honored."

And they are honored. Myers said the portraits represent "the very best America has to offer."

"When I looked at the faces in this exhibit, what I saw was the faces of men and women who made very noble decisions: to serve the cause of freedom," he said. "They could have chosen another profession that was safer, or less demanding or more profitable. But at this critical time in our nation's history — when terrorists threaten to replace our way of life with intolerance and tyranny, hatred and fear — these selfless men and women raised their right hands and swore to defend liberty."

Myers said the fallen are heroes not because they died, "but because they lived their lives in service to their country."



Photo by Staff Sgt. D. Myles Cullen

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers consoles a crying woman at the "Faces of the Fallen" opening ceremony in Arlington Va., March 22. The exhibit honors America's servicemen and women who have died in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The chairman told the families that the country will continue the fight their sons and daughters, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters

died in. "The war will be long, it will be hard, and the stakes ... could not be higher," he said. "Failure is not an option. And we won't fail, because the

spirits of the fallen live on in the men and women that serve today, and they are doing a tremendous job."

Myers thanked the families for the support they give the country and each other. After the ceremony, he and his wife, Mary Jo, spoke, and posed for pictures, with the families of the fallen. They also shook hands with everyone.

And when all was said and done, the general was the last to leave the hallowed ground of Arlington on this special evening.

Airmen less blue-, more fight-oriented

by Tech. Sgt. David Jablonski
Air Force Print News

Airmen are contributing to the success of coalition operations in Iraq and Afghanistan by being less blue- and more fight-oriented, said U.S. Central Command's deputy director of operations.

During a recent visit to the Pentagon, Brig. Gen. Douglas L. Raaberg described Air Force contributions to the joint warfighting operations in Iraq.

"People have to look twice to read 'U.S. Air Force' on our uniforms, and that's a compliment," the general said.

"Airmen are demonstrating a lot of innovation. They don't think in terms of just their home base mission," he said. "Instead they think of ways to better fight for their commander, who may be a Navy skipper or an Army colonel."

General Raaberg manages strategic and operational employment of CENTCOM forces as well as joint and combined combat operations. He coordinates all aspects of air, ground, naval and special operations forces in CENTCOM.

Airmen bring a multitude of capabilities to the joint fight, including space-based assets, airlift and systems integration, General Raaberg said.

Airmen provide the ability for soldiers to see beyond the fight and to prepare for the next step by using space capabilities.

There are more than 600 unmanned aerial vehicles flying in Iraq today, controlled via satellite links, observing events simultaneously and

providing images to Soldiers with hand-held computers.

"The Soldier on the ground can look over the mountainside or around the other side of a building before going there to see if, in fact, there's something on the other side," General Raaberg said. "This ability is already resident on Global Hawk."

Airmen make this system better, he said, by finding new ways to coordinate that information through the various command levels so commanders can easily retrieve it for the fight they're in.

Another area he said the Air Force is excelling in is linking different systems to enhance command and control.

"The next step for the future in a joint team is to continue to link not only individual systems, but to link the services' system of systems to CENTCOM (operation)," General Raaberg said.

"When that occurs, you will have done several things," he said. "You've now coordinated the UAV systems and linked space systems to terrestrial, sea born, ground operations and perhaps subsurface systems where the commander has even better control of the battle space than today."

After that, he said the next step is to link the F/A-22 Raptor to other aircraft and then link them to other command and control systems.

"Now you're talking about a great capability," General Raaberg said. "That's why in a joint environment we support anything that gives a linkage to a better picture and a greater ability to rapidly target a problem. The only



Photo by Master Sgt. Gary Coppage

Brig. Gen. Douglas L. Raaberg talks candidly about how Airmen are taking the fight to the war on terrorism. He is U.S. Central Command's deputy director of operations based at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

way to create an effect is to know what it is, monitor it and create a new effect at your time and place of choosing. That is the future of warfare."

The general said he sees that future as bright.

"We are pretty darn sophisticated, but I see us getting even better over

time," he said.

However, the one thing Airmen should not do, the general warned, is to make current operations a template for the next fight.

Instead, he says it should be seen as just another part of a learning curve to build upon and use in tomorrow's fight.

Laughlin thrift shop offers convenient way to sell, donate used properties

By 2nd Lt. Tara Brown
47th Operations Support Squadron

Closets full? No room left for last season's soccer cleats?

Visit the base thrift shop in building 301 on the flightline side of the intersection of Second Street and Mitchell Blvd.

The Thrift Shop offers a convenient way for active-duty and retiree families to sell or donate used personal property. "(Using the thrift shop) is a great way for people who don't have the time or energy to have a garage sale to recycle items," said Sandy Gearhart, thrift shop chairman.

Popular items for sale in the shop include

household merchandise, electronics, sporting goods, children's clothing, furniture and toys. Items usually are priced \$5 or less.

Shopping hours are Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Shoppers can pay with cash and checks; no charge cards are accepted.

If it's not time to buy, then perhaps it's time to sell.

It's a simple process for the seller. Bring in items for consignment, set the prices, and leave them on display over a period of eight to 12 weeks. Consigners receive 80 percent of the selling price.

Consignment hours coincide with operating hours. If that won't work, make an appointment with Cyndi Rice, the thrift shop manager,

at 298-5592 or 298-7025.

When dropping off items, cars can be parked on Mitchell Blvd. in front of the thrift shop for a quick unload. However, shoppers should park in one of the main lots. Drop-offs when the store isn't open are not authorized because of security concerns.

Not a seller or a buyer? How about volunteering?

Volunteers are needed to sort and price incoming items. They get "first look, first buy" on all items for sale in the thrift store.

The bottom line, Mrs. Gearhart said, "It's a very friendly place to be. It's organized and provides a great bargain!"

New course prepares NCOs for joint operations

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

SOUTHWEST ASIA — A new training course for senior enlisted leaders is giving them skills that are proving invaluable for those deployed here, officials said.

The Command Senior Enlisted Leader Capstone Joint Operations Module course is giving warfighters the tools they need to operate in an environment in which they work closely both with their sister services and with coalition members, said Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Brownhill, command chief master sergeant for U.S. Central Command.

“We realized early into Operation Enduring Freedom that our senior leaders were operating in a different environment than we’d prepared them for,” Chief Brownhill said.

“We spend a lot of time over the course of an officer’s career prepar-

ing (him or her) for joint-service duty,” he said.

But no comparable training existed for their senior enlisted counterparts, he said.

Now, the senior enlisted capstone course, introduced last year, mirrors the capstone course general and flag officers receive. Topics cover the life cycle of a joint task force: forming a joint task force, developing joint manning documents, joint command and control, joint basing and integrating special operations forces.

Most top-level noncommissioned officers in the command have attended the one-week training program, including Army Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia A. Pritchett, the top enlisted servicemember in Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan.

Sergeant Pritchett, who took the first course just before assuming her current post, said she had already felt

up to speed on joint operations, but said the course helped her shortcut the learning curve when she arrived in Afghanistan.

For example, it educated her about the specifics of putting together a joint manning document, which determines staffing within an organization.

“If I hadn’t gone to the course, it would have taken me weeks instead of days to do it,” she said.

Sergeant Pritchett said the course “also prepared me for the bigger picture” she confronted in Afghanistan.

“I knew what my sister services bring to the fight,” she said.

However, she said the capstone course gave her a deeper appreciation of the increased capabilities provided when the services work as a team.

When U.S. Joint Forces Command began offering the course at the Joint Warfighting Center in Norfolk, Va., last spring, officials lauded it as

a step toward providing command senior enlisted Airmen, Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Coast Guardsmen the tools they need in a world where no service goes to war by itself.

“Up until this point, we hadn’t done anything to provide them with any joint education,” said Army Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Ripka of U.S. Joint Forces Command. “Today’s command senior enlisted leaders are more operationally focused leaders. They must understand joint command and control and joint planning to be more effective at the joint-force-headquarters level.

“Our command senior enlisted leaders typically have more boots-on-the-ground, deck-plate and flight-line experience than most of our officers,” he said. “When that experience is coupled with a joint educational experience, the combination results in (greater) command senior enlisted leadership.”

Bugling paratrooper in Iraq carries on family tradition

By Sgt. Michael J. Carden
American Forces Press Service

He was 6 years old when his grandmother first showed him the bugle. She told him the history and the stories of the Shoults men who carried it to war, and of how the family tradition began in 1916 when his grandfather, a former U.S. Army sergeant with the Minnesota National Guard, carried the bugle to the Mexican border during the search for Pancho Villa, the rebel general of the Mexican Revolution. His grandfather also carried the bugle during World War I.

His grandmother also spoke of how his father, an Army fighter pilot, never learned to play the bugle, but still carried it to battle during World War II. His uncle, an Air Force pilot, continued the tradition during Vietnam.

"My grandmother told me that the bugle had been sitting at her house since my uncle got back from Vietnam, and one day the bugle may belong to me," said Maj. Hugh Shoults, operations officer, Task Force Dragon, 18th Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C. His grandmother's premonition was correct. Shoults is the current caretaker of the family's bugle. He began playing Army bugle calls, such as "Assembly," "Reveille" and "Taps" as a youngster in Spokane, Wash.

"My father couldn't play, but being a World War II veteran, he knew the different bugle calls," Shoults said. "He would hum the bugle calls to me and I would play them. That's how I learned."

Shoults continued with his musical interests in high school. He played the trumpet, which is a sister instrument of the bugle and is played in the same manner. Although Shoults played the trumpet in high school, he never played his family's bugle publicly until he was in college. As an ROTC cadet at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Shoults, proud of his family's tradition, kept the bugle with him.

He played his family's bugle for the first time in public during a memorial ceremony the university held for the crew of the Challenger space shuttle, killed during the shuttle's explosion shortly after take-off on Jan. 28, 1986. Shoults said he played "Taps" in their honor. "It was an emotional ceremony,



Photo by Army Sgt. Michael J. Carden

Maj. Hugh Shoults, operations officer, Task Force Dragon, 18th Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C., is the third generation of Shoults men to carry a family heirloom bugle to a combat zone. The family's tradition began with his grandfather in 1916. Shoults' father and uncle carried the bugle in battle in World War II and Vietnam.

but I was happy to play," he said.

After completing ROTC and college, Shoults was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army's Chemical Corps. He was stationed in Vicenza, Italy, with 3rd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. While there, he deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

He also deployed to Liberia. "I didn't really let anyone know that I had the bugle with me," Shoults said. "But I pretty much carried it around in my rucksack."

In Bosnia, a young 1st Lt. Shoults worked with Maj. Richard Hooker, now a colonel and Shoults' brigade commander in Operation Iraqi Freedom. "Colonel Hooker remembered from Bosnia that I had my family's bugle," Shoults said. "He made sure to remind me to bring it to Iraq with me this time."

Since January, when Shoults deployed to Camp Victory here in support OIF, he has played his bugle for

one memorial ceremony. On Valentine's Day, he played "Taps" at a service held for an explosive ordnance disposal soldier who was killed in action earlier that week.

"When I heard about the EOD soldier who was killed, I offered to play my bugle at his memorial," Shoults said. "I thought it would mean more to the troops, rather than 'Taps' being played on a sound system or tape recorder."

Playing at the memorial ceremony was more difficult than he had anticipated, Shoults said. It was the first time he had played for a memorial service since November 2003, which was at his own father's funeral service, fulfilling a promise that he made to his father many years before he passed away, he said.

"The EOD memorial was very emotional for me," Shoults said. "I almost lost it right there. I had not played since my father's funeral."

Although playing the bugle at future memorial services may resurface

sad memories for Shoults, he'll continue the family tradition to carry and play his bugle in honor of his fallen comrades, he said. "It's a great tradition," Shoults said. "I feel very honored and proud to carry my family's bugle."

Since Shoults' grandfather first carried the bugle nearly a century ago, the old brass bugle has been through eight American and allied conflicts, representing almost 90 years of sacrifice and selfless service by American soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. It has traveled over three oceans and four continents, serving in battle with those servicemembers in the hands of three generations of Shoultses.

"I've got two children," Shoults said. "Shelly is 6, and my son, Nick, is 7. If either of them chooses to serve in the military, I will give them the bugle and expect them to carry on the tradition. If not, they can keep it and give it to their children. I'm sure someone in our family, down the line, will serve again."

Del Rio youth becomes 'pilot for a day'

By Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill
Public affairs

Marco Gaytan Jr., normally handles the controls of his electric wheelchair as he goes about his daily activities. Recently, however, the 4-year-old found himself sitting at the cockpit controls of a T-6 Texan II aircraft as Laughlin's newest "pilot."

The Del Rio youth visited Laughlin March 19, along with his parents, sister, grandparents, aunts and a local social worker, as part of the "Pilot for a Day" program. He was the sixth child to benefit from this program since it began in October 2003.

The program provides disabled or terminally ill children and their families a tour of the base and lets them experience Air Force flying operations firsthand.

"We usually pass by the base and see the planes flying overhead," said Norma Gaytan, Marco's mother. "So, he was very excited about coming to Laughlin and being a pilot for the day."

Marco is affectionately referred to as "Marky." His parents describe him as shy, but he warms up to people once he gets to know them. He was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy when he was 18 months old. Spinal Muscular Atrophy is a genetic, neuromuscular disorder caused by progressive degeneration of nerve cells in the spinal cord. The disorder affects and weakens a person's voluntary muscles.

Although he has dealt with SMA

for nearly three years, it doesn't keep him from being swift and energetic, just the type of qualities pilots sometimes find handy.

That energy was evident during the youth's visit here as he consistently hit the controls of his wheelchair to speed and stay ahead of the group with which he was traveling.

Upon arriving to base, Marky and his family were met by 1st Lt. Steven Vestel, an instructor pilot with the 85th Flying Training Squadron. Lieutenant Vestel planned, coordinated and was the host for the visit.

"It was a privilege to provide Marky and his family an opportunity that only VIPs receive," said Lieutenant Vestel.

The family began the day by meeting squadron members. The new pilot was presented a flight suit, patches, name tag and scarf to wear. Breakfast was provided by spouses within the squadron. Afterward, the group headed off to the flight line where the T-6 Texan II aircraft was located.

After posing near the aircraft for pictures with student and instructor pilots from the squadron, Marky visited the air traffic control tower to watch aircraft take off. He also toured the radar approach control room to see how flights are monitored here.

He and his family took a lunch break, then toured the T-6 simulator and fire department. The final stop for the young warrior was the security forces squadron where members per-



Photo by Jose Mendoza

Staff Sgt. Michael Robinson, 47th Security Forces Squadron flight chief and canine handler, lets Marco get acquainted with "Cash" during a canine demonstration March 25. Marco, (above) with his mother, Norma Gaytan, and grandmother, Guadalupe Hernandez, joined other family members for a visit to Laughlin as part of the Pilot for a Day program.

formed a working dog demonstration for him.

"Marco enjoyed the T-6 simulator most of all," said Lieutenant Vestel. "After 40 minutes of flying, Marco nearly had to be pried out of the seat — he's a natural."

His parents thanked Laughlin for inviting their family and organizing the day for Marco. His mother said it was fun and something new.

"Marky was able to become a hero of the United States Air Force, if only for a day," said Lieutenant Vestel. "These memories will reside with Marky and his family for years to come."

The lieutenant added that everyone benefits from the Pilot for a Day program, including him and his fellow squadron members.

"Marky has helped all of us (refocus) our minds on what is important in this life and thereafter," he said.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

First Lieutenant Steven Vestel (right), an instructor pilot with the 85th Flying Training Squadron, coordinated the Pilot for a Day visit for Marco. The program is a quarterly event here where flying training squadrons rotate the coordination effort and host the youth visits.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

Marco joins his mother, Norma, and father, Marco Gaytan Sr., as they learn more about air traffic control operations from Senior Airman Dustin McCabe (right) of the 47th Operations Support Squadron.



Children charge the Fiesta Center field in their quest to gather Easter eggs Saturday.



James Morin, 3, son of David Morin of the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron, finds a hidden stash of Easter eggs during his hunt. Organizers placed about 10 eggs in a hole in the ground in hopes of making the egg hunt more fun and interesting.

Families gather for traditional Easter fun

Story and photos
by Tech. Sgt.
Anthony Hill
Public affairs

More than 600 children, moms and dads turned out for the base's annual Family Day and Easter Egg Hunt Saturday at the Fiesta Center.

Thousands of eggs were scattered in the field next to the center, but the eggs were scooped up in a matter of minutes once the call was given to start the hunt.

Activities began with a parade that started in the chapel parking lot and ended at the Fiesta Center. Other activities included a petting zoo, pony rides, a castle bounce slide, and a canine demonstration. A variety of games were also available inside the center for children to play and win prizes.

Family Day, traditionally conducted during Easter weekend, was sponsored by the Fiesta Center and 47th Services Division.

The event provided families an opportunity to interact in a fun setting with games and activities in addition to educational displays.



The Easter Bunny was a featured attraction during Saturday's activities.



Lauren Ketchum, 4, daughter of Jennifer and Capt. Steven Ketchum of the 87th Flying Training Squadron, takes advantage of the castle bounce slide.



Azaria Finley, 5, daughter of Jayla and Staff Sgt Leslie Finley of the 47th Medical Group, takes pony ride on "Sandy," assisted by Connie Mason (pony escort).



Philip Erven III, 2, along with his father, Staff Sgt. Philip Erven II of the wing plans and programs office, search for prizes in eggs they found.



(At left) Assisted by 2nd Lt. Ademola Elliotte of the 47th Services Division, Cody Kyker has fun at the fishing booth. Kyker, 4, is the son of Sharon Kyker, 47th Services Division, and Tech. Sgt. Michael Kyker, 47th Security Forces Squadron.

OSI keeps Baghdad Airmen, Soldiers safe

Agents use intelligence to execute mission

By Staff Sgt. Eric Petosky
447th Air Expeditionary Group
public affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Force Protection. To many Airmen, it means fishing for identification, showing it to the gate guard, and then going to work for a 12-hour shift. To the special agents of Air Force Office of Special Investigations Detachment 2408, force protection encompasses a range of discreet, 24-hour operations to keep the enemy from endangering those Airmen or interrupting their mission.

Camp Sather here is just one piece of the operational pie for these agents, said Special Agent Claude Markham, detachment 2408 commander. Since army units surround the camp, the detachment establishes a human intelligence perimeter around Baghdad International Airport.

“So our footprint for intelligence collections is huge,” said Agent Markham. “Our mission is to protect the 447th Air Expeditionary Group, but in order to do that, we have to protect the entire Baghdad International Airport compound.”

The agents use the intelligence they gather to generate strike packages against insurgents or insurgent groups that threaten U.S. forces in the area. The results of those strike packages are swift and often lethal, employing special tactics units to neutralize or capture threats, Agent Markham said.

“From an agent’s point of view, the results are instantaneous,” said Special Agent Dan Livingston, detachment superintendent. “We’ll hand off the information in the early morning and find out the target has been hit before noon. We’re at the tip of the spear. Our operations here



Courtesy photo

A special agent assigned to the Office of Special Investigations Detachment 2408 conducts a counter-surveillance mission near an entry control point in Baghdad, Iraq. OSI agents protect Airmen and Soldiers deployed to Baghdad International Airport from many force-protection threats.

are the pinnacle of everything we train for stateside.”

A typical intelligence collection mission encompasses a variety of techniques. Once agents determine if the source is accurate or not, they solidify information regarding a threat’s location, strength, weakness and operation type to create a comprehensive strike package.

“We’re not shooters,” Agent Livingston said, “we’re collectors.

But by collecting information about the enemy, we’re still in harm’s way. Bad guys don’t live in the nicest neighborhoods.”

Although the agents rarely take part in the actual strike, Agent Markham said, they often have to travel “outside the wire” of the airport compound to collect information.

“OSI maintains an information network throughout Baghdad,”

Agent Markham said. “We have to go where the information is.”

In October, three agents were caught in the blast radius of a suicide bomber during an operation in a Baghdad café. All three of them sustained injuries, but they survived the attack. Agent Markham said the incident is an everyday reminder to him of the importance of OSI’s mission in Baghdad.

Agents face threats both direct and indirect to keep the rest of the Airmen and Soldiers here safe, most times without those protected even realizing it. Since the methods and equipment of the agents must remain a secret to stay effective and successful, most servicemembers have no idea what OSI does to keep them safe.

“The satisfaction of successfully keeping Airmen and Soldiers safe comes from the results we see out in the field,” Agent Markham said. “When we see insurgents getting mug shots taken with that identification placard in front of them, it’s very gratifying.”

Besides intelligence gathering, the detachment also works to counter shoulder-fired missile threats to aircraft, and on protective-service details for distinguished visitors. The agents also act as a clearing house for information. They will either compliment information coming in with the intelligence they have collected, or put over-exaggerated information into a more realistic perspective.

“The contributions to force protection by our OSI detachment cannot be over stated,” said Col. Delbert Lewis, 447th AEG Commander. “During the information collection process our brave agents have put themselves in hazardous situations many times. Sometimes their efforts have been met with peril resulting in personal injury, or worse. Because of their heroic deeds, our group is safer and more capable of doing its mission. America and the United States Air Force are lucky to have such fine people.”

The XLer

2nd Lt. Scott Hollingsworth
Deputy financial service manager



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi

Hometown: Rankin, Texas
Family: Wife and a son
Time at Laughlin: 15 months
Time in service: 14 years
Greatest accomplishment: Receiving a commission into the Air Force
Hobbies: Working on computers and running
Bad habit: Allowing my enthusiasm to carry me away
Favorite movies: "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, "Pulp Fiction," and "Clerks"
If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? Ronald Reagan, because he was a great American and an influential role model



Laughlin Salutes

April enlisted promotions

To Master Sergeant:

- David Adkins, 47th Aero-medical-Dental Squadron
- Dora Caniglia, 47th ADS

To Technical Sergeant:

- Joseph Blanco, 47th Operations Support Squadron

To Senior Airman

Below the Zone:

- Jacob Pegg, 47th OSS
- Anthony Michels, 47th OSS
- Sara Wacenske, 47th Flying Training Wing

To Senior Airman:

- Adam Beggs, 47th Security Forces Squadron
- Charles Harris, 47th SFS
- James Trussell, 47th SFS

To Airman 1st Class:

- Adrian Garcia, 47th SFS
- Michael Klausung, 47th SFS
- Tony Lansdell, 47th OSS

To Airman:

- Nicolas Powanda, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron

Airman Leadership School graduates

Senior Airmen:

- Jacob Holm, 47th SFS
- Nicholas Hull, 47th OSS
- Odin Arcos, 47th ADS

- Karima Neal, 47th Operations Group
- Blanca G. Cantu, 47th OSS
- Sherry Neeson, 47th Medical Support Squadron
- Joseph Crandall, 47th CES
- Jennifer Pegg, 47th Comptroller Squadron
- Christian Delos Reyes, 47th CES
- Jonathon Schmidt, 47th OSS
- Roberto Garza, 47th OSS
- Torie Shimabuku, 47th OSS
- Joshua Gregory, 47th OSS
- Gregorio Velez, 47th Communications Squadron

NCO Academy graduates

Tech. Sgts.:

- Thomas Vezie, 47th OSS
- Lonnie Allen, 47th Medical Operations Squadron

March reenlistees:

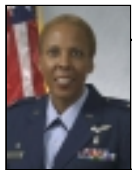
- Master Sgt. Glynis Sims-Bonds, 47th Medical Support Squadron
- Tech. Sgt. Daniel Beary, 47th ADS
- Tech. Sgt. James Bissell, 47th CS
- Staff Sgt. Heinzl Jno-Baptist, 47 MDSS
- Staff Sgt. Leslie Finley, 47th MDSS
- Senior Airman Brenna Gorney, 47th OSS

Flowers available at Pride Store

Flowers will be available at the Pride Store starting Saturday during normal business hours Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

A variety of flowers will be available on a first come-first serve basis. Each household is limited to one tray (36 flowers) until supply is depleted.

Call the Pride Store at 298-4356 for information.



What's up Doc?

By Col. Laura Torres-Reyes
47th Medical Group
commander

Question: I visited the clinic and had a referral made, but I never got a phone call or a letter indicating that the referral had been authorized.

I finally had to track down the referral manager, only to learn that I should have received a letter weeks ago! Then, I found out you don't have my new address!

What's up?

Answer: I am sorry you've had difficulty receiving information from the clinic and from Humana Military, our Tricare Contractor. I'm glad you checked your address with us. It's critical that you keep

your address and phone number updated in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System.

DEERS provides information to the computers that are available to the Military Treatment Facilities and Tricare.

Without the correct information, the clinic and Tricare will not be able to contact you for referrals, appointments, critical lab results and any other reason that the MTF has for providing you quality of care.

If you are eligible for care in the MTF, it is your responsibility to update your most current information in DEERS. Mistakes in the DEERS database can cause problems with Tricare claims as well, and cause problems if you visit the retail network pharmacies.

Here is some helpful information regarding registration in DEERS and methods to update the information once you and your family members have properly registered.

Registration in DEERS

■ Active-duty and retired service members are automatically registered in DEERS, but they must take action to register their family members and en-

sure they're correctly entered into the database.

■ Once registered in DEERS, it is important to keep DEERS records updated when personal eligibility information changes, including changes in military career status; addresses; and family status (marriage, divorce, birth and adoption).

■ Each family member's eligibility record must be updated separately when changes occur.

Updating Information in DEERS

Beneficiaries may update their DEERS address, telephone number, and e-mail data in various ways:

■ Visit the DEERS Web site at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/address/index.jsp>. —This is the quick and easy way to update your information. The best time to update is during non-peak hours!

■ Visit a local personnel office that has a uniformed services ID card facility. To locate the nearest ID card facility, visit <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home.rapidsite locator>. Call ahead for hours of operation and for instructions if you are updating a record for some-

one who is housebound.

■ Fax address changes to 1 (831) 655-8317.

■ Call the DSO Telephone Center at 1-800-538-9552 or for the Deaf (TTY/TDD): 1-866-363-2883. Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Pacific time), except Federal holidays.

■ Mail the changed information to the DSO, ATTN: COA, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, California 93955-6771.

If you need additional information regarding your Tricare benefits, please contact Mrs. Michelle Gillans at 298-6350.

Thank you for your question!

You can contact our Family Care provider on call for advice and authorization for emergency care from 4:30 p.m. to 7 a.m. Monday through Friday, weekends, and holidays at 703-6199.

You may contact Colonel Torres-Reyes at laura.torres-reyes@laughlin.af.mil if you have a What's Up Doc? question.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi

Fitness advantage...

(Left) Airman Alissa Laxton, 84th Flying Training Squadron, works out at the XL Fitness Center gym Thursday while her husband, Vince Taylor, motivates her. Taylor, who needs to lose five pounds to join the Air Force, and other family members here use the advantage and availability of the fitness center equipment to work out.

Javelin thrower honored by officials

SAN ANTONIO — Backed by a record-setting performance at the Arizona State University Invitational in Tempe, Ariz., javelin thrower Dana Pounds was named the Mountain West Conference Women's Track and Field Co-Athlete of the Week, league officials announced Wednesday.

With a toss of 182 feet 1 inch at the meet, Pounds set new academy and conference records, and she recorded the best throw in the nation this season. Her winning throw was more than 36-feet farther than the second-place finisher. Pounds shared the weekly honor with San Diego State University's Shayla Balentine, who recorded the nation's top collegiate pole vault mark.

Falcon swimmer Chris Knaute placed 21st in the 400-yard individual medley prelims at the 2005 NCAA Division I Swimming and Diving Championships on March 25 at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Knaute, the 2005 Mountain West Conference Men's Swimmer of the Year, finished at 3 minutes 51.93 seconds, which was a little more than one second off his career-best and school-best mark of

3:50.22. The following day, he placed 31st in the 1,650 yard freestyle finals at 15:22.73.

On the links, the Falcon golf team finished sixth at the Diablo Grande Intercollegiate tournament in Patterson, Calif. Ending with its best round of the week, the Air Force golf team shot a 302 to finish with a three-round score of 939. The team title for the tournament, which was held at the par-72, 7,018-yard Diablo Grande Ranch Course, went to the University of California at Davis team, which scored a 904.

In lacrosse action, the Falcons played two matches during the week, losing the first, but winning the second. Both games went right down to the wire. In a closely contested match March 23, the Falcons lost a heart-breaker to Fairfield College in Fairfield, Conn., 10-9.

In the second game, held at St. John's University in Queens, N.Y., the Falcons held off a third-period rally by the Red Storm to notch a 13-11 nonconference win. With the win, the academy team evened their overall record at 3-3.